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LETTER DATED 24 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Please find herewith enclosed the text, in English and in French, of the Declaration on Former Yugoslavia issued on the occasion of the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Western European Union, which took place in Rome on 20 November 1992.

I would be grateful if it could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vieri TRAXLER
Ambassador

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration on Former Yugoslavia issued by the Council of Ministers of the Western European Union at the meeting held in Rome on 20 November 1992

Ministers discussed the extremely grave situation in former Yugoslavia and in particular the deteriorating conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They expressed dismay at continuing acts of aggression and violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the unacceptable practice of "ethnic cleansing", as well as at the repeated gross violations of human rights. They condemned all forms of obstruction of humanitarian operations. They called on all parties to respect the principles and decisions agreed at the London Conference and to work with the United Nations and the European Community (EC) special envoys to seek a peaceful and negotiated settlement to the problems of former Yugoslavia.

They reaffirmed the need for strict compliance with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and stressed that violations of those resolutions would call for consideration of further measures by the Security Council.

They also reaffirmed their determination to reinforce the contribution of the Western European Union (WEU) and its member States were making in support of the efforts of the whole international community to bring peace to former Yugoslavia and to relieve the suffering of its peoples. In this regard, they noted that, since 16 July 1992, warships and aircraft of WEU member States, under Italian operational control, have been carrying out operations to monitor at sea compliance with the embargo established by United Nations Security Council resolutions 713 (1991) and 757 (1992). So far 3,649 ships have been monitored by WEU operations and 71 suspected violations have been reported.

Ministers therefore welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 787 (1992). They decided that WEU will contribute to its implementation and that, to this end, warships and aircraft of WEU member States, on the basis of approved joint planning, will start operations aimed at ensuring the strict implementation of the embargo at sea. These will include stop-and-search actions and other measures as necessary. The participation of the member States will be subject to the provisions of their national constitutions.

WEU operations in the Adriatic have been undertaken and will continue to be carried out in close coordination with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. WEU will continue to ensure that the two organizations work closely together.

WEU member States emphasized the importance of the sanctions assistance missions to which they contribute as members of the EC. They appealed to the Danube riparian States to ensure the strict application of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and confirmed that they were prepared to offer, if requested, expertise, technical assistance and equipment to those States to prevent the use of the river Danube for the purpose of circumventing or breaking sanctions. They also affirmed their willingness to make similar contributions to the implementation of the control of the land embargo at the frontiers.

WEU member States are contributing in a variety of ways to the enhanced operations of the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina which are now beginning their task of ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance. They reaffirmed the collective determination of WEU member States to contribute to the protection and delivery of humanitarian assistance to the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the responsibility of the United Nations and to offer further support to these operations. The member States of WEU are also prepared to study the possibility of and the requirements for the promotion of safe areas for humanitarian purposes.